

April 12, 1995

because they probably don't need the school facilities, but people are upset. If something doesn't happen, and I think finally what brought this to a head is that the rural areas have been complaining for a long time but finally Lincoln and Omaha are upset, so consequently the whole state is upset about property taxes and even the Governor is a little upset. And, of course, you know I felt...the way I felt about the Governor's taxes, he's been getting off for four or five years while we up in Washington County and down in Senator Withem's district and Sarpy County where our valuation has been propped up for four or five years, we've been paying for those ESU taxes and for those community college taxes. What was it, I guess the Governor called him "Rip Van Beamus" is the big trouble in Omaha. But that's neither here nor there. I think one thing that I hear a lot too is...and there's another item, and people aren't going to...you people aren't going to like this, but we've got to take a good look at how we're funding schools. And I don't think the structure of the schools as we have them today can keep on going. I'll be real honest, we probably have...we have too many teachers, we have too many superintendents and we probably have too many principals because we have too many schools. And I know it's a tough issue. But you know what it does, it makes...it makes education that much higher. And I know a lot of you people from small schools, I've got a couple of small schools in my district, too. But it's something that we're going to have to face.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR ROBINSON: And it's a tough issue. Well one thing that I keep hearing, I keep hearing is regardless of what we do we have to keep spending under control. We can't pass all these things and then just let the metropolitan, technical community colleges continue to spend 10 percent more on property taxes. We can't continue to let schools spend, you know they say the rise from budget to budget, that's their lid. But from prop...maybe we ought to say it's from property tax, it's the increase in property tax which is a lot different than increasing a budget so much. But this is what I hear from my people, and you know where I came from, I came from the school business. But it's something that we have to look at. People want some...some control for spending. It just can't be an open book. And I think a lot of these things that the Revenue Committee have come up with...